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3 soldiers killed in Jordan Valley ambush

BILL HUTMAN

THREE soldiers were killed and two lightly wounded when gunmen ambushed an IDF patrol near the Jordan River yesterday morning. As of last night, the attackers were still at large after fleeing into Jordan, despite a joint Jordanian-Israeli effort to catch them.

Military sources said the attack was well-planned, and caught the patrol completely by surprise during a routine sweep of the security road near Moshav Na'aran, north of Jericho. The soldiers were carrying out an operation termed "opening the road," in which the dirt security path along the Jordan River is driven over in search of signs of infiltrators.

There were five soldiers in the ambushed unit, three on foot and two in a command car equipped with a machine gun. The three foot soldiers were killed, and one in the command car was wounded. A soldier in a second patrol that arrived shortly after the attack began was also wounded.

The infiltrators apparently got away unharmed, although there was an exchange of fire.

Dead are Sgt. Ashraf Shibli, 20, from the village of Shibli, and Staff-Sgt. (res.) Asher Bardugo, 22, of Kiryat Bialik, who were killed immediately. Ya'acov Turgeman, 33, Rishon LeZion, was badly wounded, but managed to get away, only to die several dozen meters from the scene of the attack.

The army spokesman denied reports that the gunmen had tried to kidnap Turgeman.

According to an Associated Press report, a Damascus-based splinter group of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction has claimed responsibility for the killings, saying the attack was intended to protest peace accords signed between the PLO and Israel.

The splinter group is led by Col. Mohammed Saeed Moussa, also known by his code name Abu Moussa.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said there was no concrete information as to who was behind the ambush, but said Syria and Iran were known to have had



An air force helicopter lands at the site of yesterday's Jordan Valley ambush in which three soldiers were killed.

(Reuters)

a hand in such attacks. He vowed that Israel would act with the government of Jordan to prevent similar attacks in the future.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, he declared: "It is clear that there is now and has been cooperation with the government of Jordan to prevent terrorist raids. We have a joint interest. And we will strengthen joint efforts to decimate terror."

Referring to the recent Cairo summit, during which Jordan complained that Syria is permit-

ting infiltrations, Netanyahu called such actions "a direct threat to us, but also a threat against Jordan."

"Responsibility rests with the country in control of the area from which an attack is launched," said Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. He added that Israel and Jordan are cooperating in trying to find the attackers.

King Hussein called Netanyahu to express his condolences, and promised his country's help in preventing future infiltrations. He

said there are those out to undermine the peace between Israel and Jordan - an apparent allusion to Syria, Israel Radio reported.

According to the initial army investigation, two to three people crossed the border from Jordan on Tuesday night, and lay in wait for the patrol in a gully along the security road, meters from the Jordan River. There is no security fence along that strip of the border.

Just before 8 a.m., they opened fire on the soldiers on foot at close

range, fatally wounding all three. One of the soldiers in the command car was wounded before he and the remaining soldier ran for cover, abandoning the car and allowing the attackers to remove its machine gun. The killers also got away with an M-16 rifle taken from one of the dead soldiers.

The second patrol - dispatched when radio contact was lost with the first - arrived a short while later, and exchanged fire with the infiltrators. One soldier was lightly wounded in the exchange, but

the force was unable to catch the gunmen as they fled back into Jordan.

In the initial ambush, Shibli, a tracker, returned fire before being killed. It was unclear if the other two soldiers managed to fire back. However, the army has already determined that the soldier who was not wounded did not return fire, and instead ran for cover.

The division commander, Brig.-Gen. Eyal, said the army is investigating the soldiers' reactions, particularly since two of them

abandoned the command car, and the unwounded soldier didn't even return fire.

"That he didn't return fire certainly was not good," he said.

Military sources described the gunmen as well-trained, and said they were clearly not on a suicide mission. The sources noted that they didn't flee immediately, but lingered to take the dead soldiers' weapons.

Initially, the army did not rule out the possibility that the terrorists remained in Israeli territory, and dozens of troops were rushed to the scene. But it soon became apparent that the gunmen had fled into Jordan, and the IDF was left with little to do but wait for updates from the Jordanian army on the search being carried out east of the Jordan River.

Two Kalashnikov assault rifles, a land mine, and some personal items belonging to the fleeing gunmen were found at the scene. The IDF and Jordanian army coordinated the search operation. The Jordanians allowed an IDF helicopter into its airspace to help in the initial search, and even permitted an IDF unit in pursuit to cross the border. "The cooperation [shown by the Jordanians] was very good. I don't want to say exceptional, because it was only what they should have done given the seriousness of the incident," Eyal told reporters.

"They brought large forces in, and some of their most senior officers. Look, you can see their attack helicopters still searching."

Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem received two soldiers after the attack. One was moderately wounded in the leg. The second was examined, but no visible injury was found, doctors said.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan arrived at the scene to personally oversee the search and investigation. The Jordan Valley border is generally considered quiet, although last year there were at least three infiltrations, and in the most recent incident, in November, a soldier was wounded.

David Makovsky contributed to this report.

Netanyahu: International community must act against Syria

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE international community needs to take "necessary actions" against Syria if Damascus continues on the path of terror, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*.

Netanyahu's remarks came hours before a Palestinian rejectionist group based in Damascus claimed responsibility for the Jordan Valley infiltration and ambush, in which three soldiers were killed and two wounded.

The premier shied away from the phrase "triple containment," which those close to him use to describe a policy which Netanyahu said before the election would involve the same sort of "sanctions" imposed by the US against Iran and Iraq.

"It's not a containment policy. It's simply a policy that says that we're not going to play by Syrian

rules," Netanyahu said. "Syrian rules are that they lash out with terrorism 360 degrees, obviously against Turkey and against Jordan, and increasingly against us, and I don't mean only Hizbullah."

"Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front are all based in Damascus, and they're all perpetrating terrorist acts indirectly against Israeli citizens. This is unacceptable. Syria has to know that a political price will be exacted from Damascus if it continues."

He said he wants the West to stop turning a blind eye to Syrian-backed terror. "I want to certainly persuade our allies, and especially the United States, that this policy is detrimental not only to our

interests but to the interests of others."

The West, he added, should "take the necessary actions that would cause a rethinking in Damascus about the utility of such an aggressive policy."

Netanyahu refused to say whether he would tell President Clinton during their White House meeting scheduled for July 9 when and under what conditions he would meet Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat or pull back from Hebron.

When asked if he is committed to bring such answers to Washington, Netanyahu said, "No. I will bring an answer when I have an answer."

He said Israel accepts UN Security Council Resolution 242,

but said that "we have our own interpretation" of the resolution, which all other countries say involves trading land for peace.

Asked if he would uphold agreements reached by previous governments, Netanyahu said this would be contingent upon Arab "reciprocity."

He is still studying the "very complicated" problem of Hebron, he said, but added that under any circumstances, Israel would retain its current link between Kiryat Arba and Hebron's Jewish enclaves.

Netanyahu also said he expects the Palestinians to reconvene to revoke the PLO Covenant, since the Palestine National Council meeting in April constituted a "partial step."

"It should be absolutely clear that the PNC has abolished that (Continued on Page 2)



Thirty three-year-old Staff-Sgt. (res.) Asher Bardugo, 22, of Kiryat Bialik, will be buried at 3:30 this afternoon in the Tzur Shalom cemetery. He was doing his first reserve duty, and was set to leave today on a weekend pass. "He called on Tuesday, said he was coming home, and asked his mother to prepare all his favorite foods," his uncle, Ya'acov Davida, said yesterday. "She cleaned up his room, but he won't be using it anymore." Bardugo did his compulsory service with the Border Police and served in the Jordan Valley, falling in love with the area. After his discharge, he moved to Ma'aleh Ephraim, and joined the police, but left after a year to complete his studies.



Sgt. Ashraf Shibli, 20, of the village of Shibli, a Beduin settlement at the foot of Mt. Tabor, will be buried at noon today in the village cemetery. "We have no complaints," said his uncle. "We are in shock. Our family lost a young man with his whole future ahead of him, but we are used to the danger and requirements of army service." The Shibli family was already bereaved: Another uncle, who also served as a tracker, as did Ashraf's father, was killed in the War of Attrition. Hundreds of area residents - Jews, Beduin, Circassians, and Arabs - stopped by the Shibli home to pay their condolences.



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Clinton to urge G-7 to step up war on terror

19 killed in bombing of US compound in Saudi Arabia

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton said yesterday he would press at this week-end's G-7 summit to expand the fight against terrorism in light of Tuesday's bombing of a US military compound in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 and wounded hundreds - the deadliest terror strike ever against a US target in the Gulf.

Jagged chunks of concrete, mattresses, and shattered glass yesterday littered the military complex in Dhahran, where the huge truck bomb had exploded.

American officials said 270 people were injured, all American, but Saudi officials said there were 386 people injured, 149 of them Saudis. Saudi security forces kept the area cordoned off yesterday morning, as investigators and rescue teams, aided by five bulldozers, were moving concrete, broken glass and other debris, searching for possible survivors and clues.

A parked fuel truck blew up just

outside the US military housing complex, leaving a 10-meter deep crater.

Clinton dispatched an FBI team to investigate what is suspected to be the work of Islamic militants opposed to Western military presence in the kingdom. Secretary of State Warren Christopher interrupted his schedule yesterday to fly to Dhahran - on the Gulf coast just across from Bahrain - to visit the wounded and offer condolences to victims' families.

No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing. But less than a month ago, the Saudis beheaded four Islamic militants convicted of setting off a car bomb at a US-run military training facility in Riyadh on November 15. Five Americans and two Indians died. Underground extremists had threatened to attack US interests in Saudi Arabia if the four were punished.

Speaking to reporters as he left the White House for France for the annual meeting of the leading industrialized nations, Clinton said the US intends to follow-up its ini-

tiative at last year's Halifax summit against nuclear smuggling, organized crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism.

"Now at Lyon we expect to expand that work, and we expect to see very practical results, including a package of 40 specific recommendations to combat terrorism," Clinton said. "Defeating these organized forces of destruction is one of the most important challenges our country faces at the end of this century and the beginning of the next."

"I will say to my partners [in Lyon] what I say to my fellow Americans today: We cannot have economic security and a global economy unless we can stand against these forces of terrorism. The US will lead the way and we expect our allies to walk with us, hand-in-hand. We cannot tolerate this kind of conduct."

Clinton said "it would be a mistake for the US to change its mission" in Saudi Arabia because of the bombing, and said he was reluctant to speculate about why Americans were targeted.

Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Strom Thurmond called on the chamber to be "unexceptionally serious" about the pending \$267 billion defense authorization bill, because the US is "duty-bound" to support its military personnel.

"We cannot fall short in supporting our men and women in uniform and their families, insuring the best possible benefits and providing the best equipment for the dangerous missions in a still very dangerous world."

Thurmond said the bombing "is another reminder that the absence of war does not mean that the world is at peace."

The Saudi government resolved to "punish the perpetrators" and offered a \$2.7 million reward for information leading to arrests. A US airman in a security observation tower had reported a suspicious fuel truck stopped outside the compound, about 30 meters from the nearest building. When a Saudi officer approached, two men jumped out and drove off in a white car, a senior Defense Department official said. Authorities tried to evacuate (Continued on Page 2)

Gold met with Abu Mazen

Christopher: Land for peace still cornerstone for policies

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold met with top Palestinian Authority negotiator Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) last Wednesday, sources have confirmed. It was the first time a Likud government official met with the PLO.

Meanwhile, a day after echoing Netanyahu's call for Israeli-Arab negotiations "without preconditions," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in Cairo that the cornerstone for US Middle East peace policies remains "land for peace," but he added that "generalities" will not create an agreement.

The Gold-Abbas meeting was held either in Ramallah or Gaza. Apparently, it was timed to coincide with the eve of the Cairo summit, and designed to ease

Palestinian concerns before the parity.

Gold refused comment, saying he would not discuss anything related to Palestinian contacts. It remains unclear what the two discussed. But it appears that Gold conveyed the government's desire for a sincere dialogue with the Palestinians and its willingness to set up negotiating teams for the future.

Netanyahu said yesterday that there would be a variety of channels in dealing with the PA, and this could involve the ministerial level. But he refused to say if or under what conditions he would meet with PA President Yasser Arafat.

While in Cairo, Christopher met with both Egyptian President

Hosni Mubarak and Arafat. "Netanyahu must commit himself to the agreements we have reached. One of these agreements is that Jewish settlement is not allowed during the transitional period," Arafat said.

The Egyptian media savaged Christopher for failing to mention land for peace while meeting Netanyahu. *Al-Ahram* said Christopher had "changed the entire US policy overnight." (See story, Page 3)

US officials suggested that Christopher was trying not to "enter into public disagreements" with Netanyahu during their first meeting since his election.

While Christopher did not wreat any commitments on specifics of the peace process from Netanyahu, he said yesterday that (Continued on Page 2)



Netanyahu calls Clinton, offers sympathy

DAVID MAKOVSKY
and news agencies

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with President Bill Clinton yesterday evening, offering his condolences to the US and the families of the servicemen killed in the bombing in Dahran, Saudi Arabia.

Netanyahu said that Israel would offer any assistance desired to the injured servicemen, including those suffering severe burns.

The two spoke as Clinton was on Air Force One en route to the summit of seven top industrialized countries in Lyon.

Netanyahu said he called Secretary of State Warren Christopher after the attack and proposed joint action against terrorism.

"I spoke with Christopher and made it clear to him that we repeat and confirm our desire to cooperate against terrorism that harms all of us, harms humanity, civilization, and the human values that Israel and the United States share," Netanyahu told Army Radio.

After meeting with Christopher, President Ezer Weizman said he suspected Iran was responsible for the bombing.

"I bet you that the Iranians are behind it, and it is time that people realize it," Weizman told reporters.

Weizman said Iran was behind similar attacks in Lebanon and Egypt.

"The world has to work not only on proof... the world has to work on assumptions and assessments of information. It is high time the world realized that Iran is one of

the greatest enemies of European civilization," Weizman said.

France also condemned the bombing, offering its sympathies to Washington and Riyadh, and its condolences to the victims' families.

"France condemns the attack carried out yesterday evening against the base," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "France believes the battle against terrorism must be unrelenting, wherever it occurs and whoever its authors."

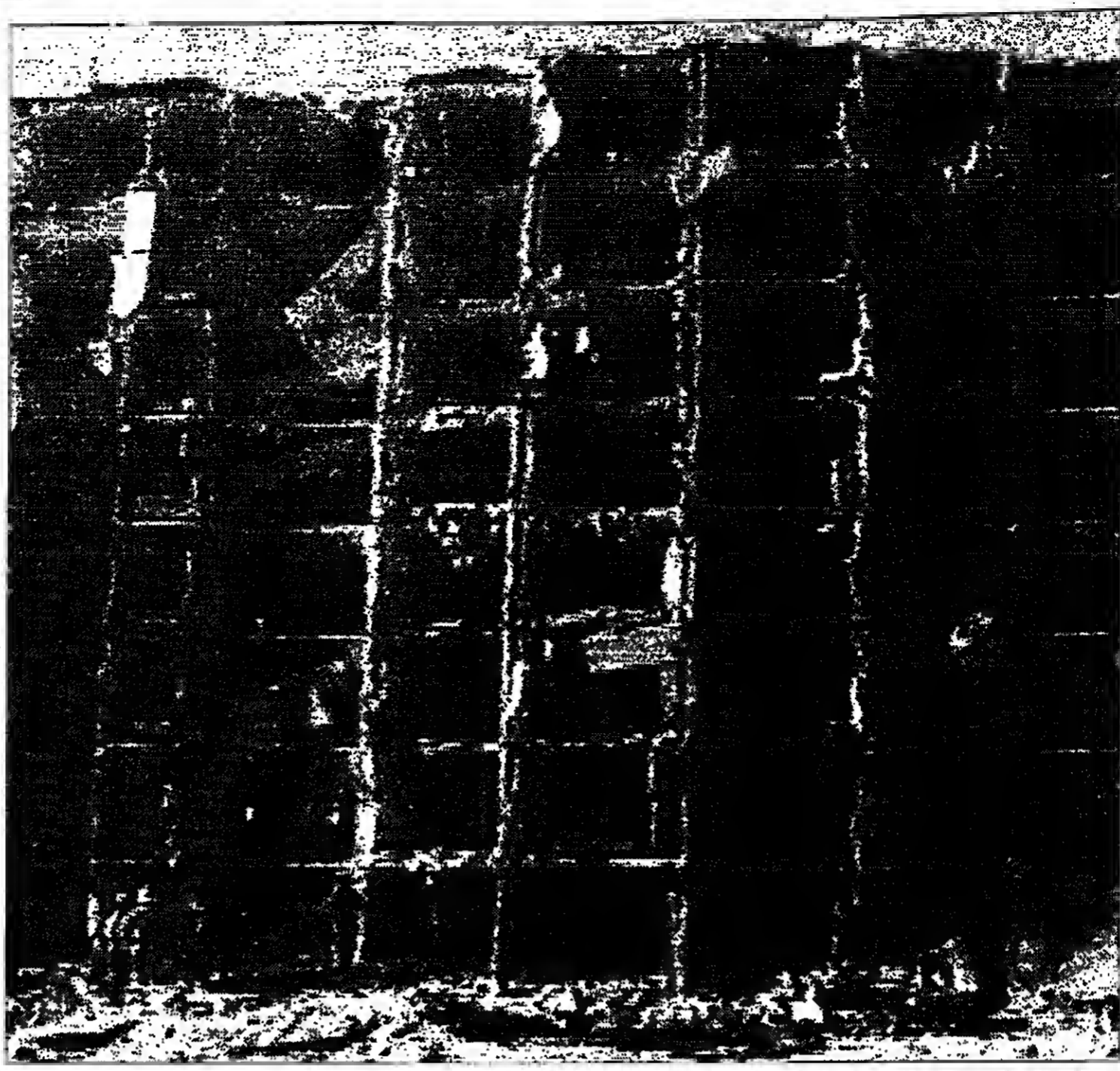
UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who is on a two-day working visit to London, condemned the attack "in the strongest possible terms," and urged the international community "to strengthen its efforts to combat international terrorism."

British Prime Minister John Major called the bombing "an act of pure evil for no reason" and promised maximum assistance to identify the perpetrators. More than 200 Royal Air Force personnel based at Dhahran, alongside US and French forces, escaped injury.

"We have had all too much of this sort of experience, the unprovoked bomb, the murder of innocent people," Major said.

Palestinian Authority Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein said the bombing showed that lack of full peace in the region created violence.

"Terrorist actions will continue if there is no complete peace agreement in the Middle East," he said.



The wreckage of a bombed apartment building at the US Air Force complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, is seen in this view from Saudi Television yesterday. The truck bomb that exploded in the complex on Tuesday killed at least 19 people. (AP)

Knesset plenum opens with condolences

LIAT COLLINS

KNESSET Speaker Dan Tichon opened yesterday's plenum session by expressing condolences to the American people following the attack on US soldiers in Saudi Arabia.

"Terror doesn't distinguish between peoples and states. The roots of terror are branching out throughout the whole world and threaten its peace, and when Israel fights back and warns about terror, she is not only fighting her own battle but warning the whole world, because terror is the enemy of humanity," Tichon said.

MK Haggai Merom complained that his request for an urgent plenum discussion on the attack had been rejected. He said the Foreign Ministry had asked the Speaker not to raise the matter.

A Knesset spokesman said it had been decided to hold the discussion next week after more details on the attack are known, rather than the same morning, before relevant information is available. He denied that anyone from the Foreign Ministry had asked the Knesset to postpone the debate.

Palestinian rights activist released

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN Police yesterday released human rights activist Dr. Eyad Sarraj after arresting him twice in one month for criticizing Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

In a separate development the PA High Court of Appeals in Ramallah ordered Arafat to explain why he was keeping 10 students in jail without charges.

The 53-year-old psychiatrist, who runs Gaza's Mental Health Center as well as the Independent Palestinian Commission for Citizens' Rights, was first arrested in mid-May for a week after giving an interview to *The New York Times*. In the interview, he protested the corruption and dictatorship of the PA, imprisonment without charge, and a lack of press freedom, which he said was psychologically worse than living under Israeli occupation.

Sarraj was released early yesterday, 17 days after being rearrested, following a letter he sent to Arafat reiterating his earlier accusations against Arafat and the PA. The official charge against him was drug possession, a charge that was later dropped. He then remained detained for allegedly assaulting a police interrogator, though he in fact complained that he was hit by police in jail. (The policeman in question appeared in a military court to testify against Sarraj with a bandaged fist.)

Sarraj refused to be interviewed yesterday. His family said he was tired but well.

In Ramallah yesterday, a lawyer petitioned the Palestinian High Court of Appeals on behalf of 10 students from Bir Zeit University arrested by the Palestinian Police more than 100 days ago and held without charges or remand orders.

When attorney Khader Shkeirat handed the court registrar a petition naming Arafat as a respondent, the judges held consultations for 30 minutes before deciding whether to accept it.

Attack on US soldiers may be linked to Saudi internal tensions

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman was quick to point the finger of blame for the terrorist attack on US soldiers in Saudi Arabia at Iran.

But according to Yoram Meital, a member of the Middle East Studies department at Ben-Gurion University, the attack was probably linked to the ongoing struggle between the Saudi Arabian government and local militant Islamic groups.

"Essentially, the struggle is not new," said Meital. "It has taken on many forms and directions over the past decades."

In addition to a non-militant Islamic opposition, which wants to reach a modus vivendi with Saudi Arabia's political and religious establishment, there are a number of extremist Islamic groups. These groups became active at the end of the 1970s and perpetrated their most violent act in 1979, when they took over and held the Great Mosque in Mecca for two weeks. Hundreds died in the fighting to liberate the site.

Last year, five US soldiers and two Indians were killed in an explosion at a US-run military

training center in Riyadh, the capital.

The Islamic militants take a very critical view of the links between the US and Saudi governments, and especially the increasingly close military ties that began 20 years ago but took a quantum leap after the 1991 Gulf War. During the war, some 500,000 allied troops - most of them American - were stationed in the area, most of them on Saudi soil.

There is something ironic about the fact that Saudi Arabia - once considered the most Islamic of the Arab and Moslem states - should be facing an Islamic fundamentalist threat.

The current ruling dynasty, founded by Muhammad Ibn Saud, formed an alliance in the 18th century with Mohammed ibn Abed el-Wahab, a radical religious leader. Since then, Saudi Arabia has been governed by a Moslem constitution and Moslem

BACKGROUND DAN IZENBERG

law.

But the 20th century has brought oil-created wealth to the nation of 10 million, most of it concentrated in the hands of the royal family. While parts of the population enjoy the fruits of modernization, some are outraged by the moral corruption and social and economic inequality that have followed in its wake.

Although Saudi Arabia is an authoritarian and centralized regime, the government has had trouble either rooting out or reaching a compromise with the extremists.

According to Meital, it is too early to determine whether Iran was involved in the terrorist attack. It is very difficult to prove such involvement under any circumstances.

However, there is no doubt that Iran helps indigenous fundamentalist groups in other countries, including Moslem Sunnis. And the Saudi government is very concerned about Iranian intervention in the Gulf - not only at home but also in the neighboring countries of Bahrain and Qatar.

THE terrorist attack on US troops in Saudi Arabia will not lead to a withdrawal of American forces or a rise in isolationist sentiment in the US, according to Shmuel Sandler, professor of international politics at Bar-Ilan University.

"Saudi Arabia is obviously important to Americans," he said. "The understanding the significance of the price of gasoline. It's not the same as US soldiers dying in Bosnia."

Furthermore, Americans understand that if they want their country to be a super-power, it must fight terrorism. "They understand that this is an ongoing war."

On the other hand, President Bill Clinton's electoral fortunes may be jeopardized by the attack.

"The first reaction of Americans will be one of anger," said Sandler. "Americans don't like it when their soldiers are killed."

BACKGROUND DAN IZENBERG

Clinton, the terrorist attack will not change the basic American view of its role in the world. "At this stage, both Democrats and Republicans are interventionists," said Sandler. "No one would go back to isolationism."

The attack may also help the US in its attempts to get Europe to join its campaign to isolate Iran. A new American law, calling for a boycott of companies that trade with Iran, has angered the Europeans. Now, they may take a softer view, although Sandler is doubtful that the attack will have any substantial effect on the European attitude toward Iran.

It may also help increase international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, says Sandler. After all, the success of the attack demonstrated the weakness in counter-terrorist intelligence.

US overseas vulnerability exposed

WASHINGTON - The truck bomb is America's worst nightmare, whether in Oklahoma City, Beirut, Bosnia or Saudi Arabia. It is a symbol of the vulnerability of the world's most powerful nation.

"There is not absolute security [overseas], and we do expose ourselves to risk by exercising leadership and engaging in the rest of the world," Philip Wilcox, head of the State Department's counterterrorism office, said told ABC News. "We do everything we can, however, to protect our people."

The explosion that tore through apartment buildings at a US Air Force complex in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday evoked the awful memory of the 1983 bombing in Beirut that killed 241 American servicemen. That, too, was a truck bomb that went off outside a US military barracks.

Can such incidents be prevented? Of course not.

That was a theme that dominated the debate over sending 20,000 US troops to Bosnia as part of a NATO peacekeeping force.

Opponents of US intervention in Bosnia repeatedly recalled the Beirut bombing and predicted that American troops in Bosnia would

be targets of similar attacks. So far, the Bosnia mission has been free of major terrorist assaults.

But the explosion in Saudi Arabia is a reminder that the opponents of sending troops to Bosnia may yet see their arguments prove tragically prophetic.

When White House spokesman Mike McCurry was asked whether there had been any specific threats against the US base in Saudi Arabia he replied, "That is a part of the world in which the threat exists all the time of people who would do damage to the interests of the United States and the interests of those who support the [Middle East] peace process."

A Defense Department official who described yesterday's attack to reporters said a series of suspicious incidents had been reported in the area over the past several months, and that security measures had been tightened as a result.

But as the incident illustrated, security can never be tightened enough. Israelis know this as well as anyone.

ANALYSIS DONALD M. ROTHBERG

Time and again Israel has suffered through terrorist bombings that have killed innocent people, that have claimed victims riding the bus or standing on a street corner.

When attacks are carried out by Hizbullah in Southern Lebanon, the Israeli response is swift and violent. But it has yet to stop the terrorism.

Not that long ago, attacks in the heart of Israel brought retaliation against Palestinian strongholds. Since the signing of the Oslo accords, however, the PLO is no longer a ready target for retaliation.

For the United States, retaliation is even more difficult.

When the truck bomb went off in Beirut, President Reagan vowed to punish the culprits. But how could they be singled out?

In the aftermath of the Saudi bombing, President Clinton vowed, "The cowards who committed this murderous act must not go unpunished."

In the insular society of Saudi Arabia, apprehending those responsible is more likely than in Bosnia or Lebanon. Last November, a car bomb went off at a US-run military training facility, killing five Americans and two Indians.

Four Islamic militants were apprehended, convicted and beheaded. The men, all Saudis, were executed despite threats from underground extremists to attack US interests in the kingdom if the four were punished.

The fact they were apparently able to carry out their threat demonstrated once again the vulnerability of US forces. (AP)

ABU MAZEN
(Continued from Page 1)
he is confident that Netanyahu "understands his obligations to adhere to the agreements" and "intends to take the proper steps in this direction."

Senior Clinton administration officials said that during his 24-hour visit to Jerusalem, Christopher's job was not only to affirm US-Israel links, but to quietly point out to Netanyahu the likely consequences in the Arab world of any sharp policy departures.

"We want the new government in Israel to make their new policy choices with their eyes open to implications of their decisions," one senior official said.

This created speculation that the US had warned against such decisions as closing Orient House, not pulling back in Hebron, or establishing new settlements.

But the warning creates the impression that incremental policy changes from the previous government, or a "Labor-plus" approach, might under certain conditions be accepted by the Arabs, as it will be seen as bowing to domestic political constraints.

Christopher and US officials did most of the talking during the visit. The secretary was careful not to ask for Netanyahu's response on specific issues, such as Hebron or when he would meet Arafat.

CLINTON
(Continued from Page 1)
two nearby apartment buildings, the official said. But the bomb went off a couple of minutes later, at 10:30 p.m. local time, before people could get out.

"I heard a deafening noise and then the windows shattered and the walls fell in," said Staff Sgt. Tyler Christie, 31, of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, who was lightly injured.

Master Sgt. William Sine was walking down a hallway toward the elevator when he was knocked to the ground by the force of the blast.

"The lights went off... and I realized the whole side of the building was falling," said Sine, 39, of Warren, Ohio. He said he quickly started to help care for the victims.

"There were some people dead. I could feel a lot of blood on my hands, and I knew, it couldn't be sweat because it was too thick," he said from his bed at King Fahd Hospital, where he was recovering from cuts on the thigh, face, and arms.

Hundreds of people rushed out into the streets.

"We thought it was the end of the world," said Walid, 22, who was walking nearby at the time of the explosion.

The attack raised new concerns about the political future of Saudi Arabia, long seen as a bastion of stability in a volatile region.

SYRIA
(Continued from Page 1)
old charter and that whatever new document they adopt is compatible with the declarations of peace that they have put forward publicly," he said.

Netanyahu suggested he favored steps to improve the Palestinian economy. But while he said he did not like the principle of closure, he offered no timetable for lifting the current closure of the territories.

"I think that ideas of creating magnets for employment are sound, providing they're not artificial employment. And there's probably a lag of some time before free-market forces can operate fully in Gaza and in the other Palestinian areas, simply because the economy is at a fairly low level. But it would be brought up rapidly by a combination of investments in infrastructure, which also offer considerable other economic ideas that I have in mind, and these will be the subject of my discussions."

The full interview will appear tomorrow.

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For details of funeral arrangements Tel. 02-791170

Court asked to ban smoking on airplanes

JUDY SIEGEL

A REQUEST for a temporary injunction ordering smoking banned on all Israeli flights to and from the country was filed in the High Court of Justice yesterday by a group of El Al stewards.

The stewards, who were joined in the suit by the Israel Cancer Association and a woman who flies frequently to South Africa, said smoking on flights violates their right to good health. In a few months, a three-judge panel will hear the case, which was filed by Israel Association for the Prevention of Smoking legal adviser Amos Hausner.

According to existing Transport Ministry regulations - adopted from now-obsolete regulations set by the US in 1988 - smoking is prohibited only on flights that take less than two hours. In practice, this encompasses few flights.

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Weizman reminds Mubarak that Israel and Egypt are at peace

LIAT COLLINS
and news agencies

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman says he is worried by the growing "anti-Israeli" sentiment evident in Egypt.

Weizman told reporters yesterday that he had asked US Secretary of State Warren Christopher to remind Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo that Israel and Egypt are friends.

"I pointed to the behavior adopted by Egypt - that it has become a leader in spreading anti-Israel sentiment," Weizman told reporters at his breakfast meeting with Christopher.

"I told him he should tell President Mubarak that we have been friends since 1977, almost 20 years," said Weizman, who as a cabinet minister in prime minister Menachem Begin's cabinet helped negotiate the 1979 treaty.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy said Israel would reject attempts to dictate its policy and create preconditions for negotiations.

Answering several motions on the concluding statement of the Arab Summit in Cairo at the beginning of the week, Levy

promised the government would talk with all relevant bodies to further the peace process - including the Palestinian Authority.

"We didn't choose it, but there is no other partner," he said.

"In these negotiations Israel will stand firm on its basic principle of direct negotiations without preconditions, and certainly without dictating in an attempt to reach peace and stability in the region.

"In the concluding statement... the text contains a hint that normalization might be harmed or stalled if the Israeli government doesn't meet certain demands. What demands? That Israel withdraw from the whole of the Golan Heights to the 1967 borders; that a Palestinian state be established with Jerusalem as its capital; and that the right of [Palestinian] return be recognized." Levy described the possibility of a return to tension and bloodshed in the region as "something I don't even want to think about."

He also criticized Egypt for hinting it would lead a hawkish line against Israel at the UN.

Christopher panned in Egyptian press

CAIRO (AP) - Egypt's state-run press, usually cautious in criticizing the US, yesterday said Secretary of State Warren Christopher's "shameful" comments in Israel show he is not an honest broker.

The two main government dailies, *Al-Ahram* and *Al-Akhabar*, carried front-page editorials accusing Christopher of changing US policy on the peace negotiations and acting solely in Israel's interests.

"By giving this shameful support unworthy of a superpower, Christopher is declaring... he is not an honest broker in the peace process and is interested in the Middle East's security and stability only in the framework of Israeli interests," *Al-Akhabar* said.

The editorials appeared as Christopher arrived for meetings with President Hosni Mubarak and PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

In Israel on Tuesday, Christopher endorsed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call for resuming peace talks without conditions, and the Egyptian dailies saw this as evidence he is backing Israeli policy statements viewed by the Arabs as a denial of principles accepted in the peace talks.

"The question is what pushed Christopher to change the American policy in such a great hurry," said *Al-Ahram*.

It noted the US is "the chief sponsor of the peace process, which has supported the Security Council resolutions and the peace agreements," its front-page editorial said.

In fact, while Christopher did not restate the land-for-peace policy in his news conference with Netanyahu, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns later said that it remains official US policy.

The opposition daily *Al-Wafd* said that in formulating US policies, Christopher should listen to Arab public opinion, which it said is increasingly disbelieving of American claims to support justice and freedom.

"We hope his excellency will have only one hour for a tour of Cairo's streets to talk to people and listen to what Egyptians say... and the unease and outrage they feel against American policy," it said.

"What you will hear on the streets of Cairo is only an echo of the Arab summit, and you will find the Egyptians against you and in support of the summit's resolutions."

Bomb wounds SLA soldier

DAVID RUDGE

A SOUTH Lebanese Army soldier was very lightly wounded by a roadside bomb in the security zone yesterday.

The bomb was detonated alongside an SLA patrol near Kantara, in the western sector of the zone. The wounded soldier was taken to Marjayoun hospital.

Reports from Lebanon said Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack. The organization was also responsible for the previous incident on Monday,

when two large explosive devices were detonated first near an IDF convoy and a short while later by SLA troops in the Bint J'ball area, also in the western sector of the zone. There were no IDF or SLA casualties.

Hizbullah is expected to escalate its activities, which were halted for the duration of the Cairo summit, especially in light of the decision by the Arab leaders to differentiate between terrorism and "legitimate national resistance."



Yulian Arsana, 44, who was wounded in yesterday's attack on IDF soldiers in the Jordan Valley, grimaces in pain as he is wheeled into the operating room at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

'Lebanon comes to the Jordan Valley'

BILL HUTMAN

many incidents in the past.

Elhayani said that security road is patrolled "about every two weeks," along the stretch where the attack occurred. Further north, the road is patrolled daily, he said.

Area communities were put on alert immediately after the attack, although there was no visible sign of increased readiness. Elhayani said. Additional soldiers were rushed to the scene of the attack, to search for the terrorists, but not to the communities.

The attack occurred several kilometers from the nearest community, Na'aran. The area is largely undeveloped, with sporadic banana and date fields, but otherwise desolate. Jericho is about 10 kilometers south, but at no time did the army believe the terrorists fled there.

"I was working in the banana field when I heard shots fired," said Daniel Kostan, 26, from Moshav Yitav. He continued working, in the area the army said it closed off to carry out the search for the terrorists, and was in contact with the moshav but was not told to leave.

"I kept working, and then saw all the police and army vehicles driving into the area, and a helicopter flying overhead. A little later I heard some more shots, but that was it," said Kostan, sitting atop his tractor, headed back to the moshav for lunch.

"Our answer to the attack must be to increase development in the area," Elhayani said. David Levy, Jordan Valley Council Chairman, was also briefed by Dayan. "This is a very serious incident, which raises great concern for all residents of the area," Levy said. He got a call at about 8 a.m. from

security officials informing him of the attack.

"I hope that this is not a sign of escalation along the border, but a one-time incident," Levy said. An official statement put out by the council expressed similar concerns.

"This is a very serious incident, which is more reminiscent of a confrontation zone than of peace," the statement said. "We are very worried by the daring and the freedom [of action] displayed by the terrorists... Farmers from the Jordan Valley settlements have worked their fields in this area with no special problems in recent years. We hope that this grave incident is a one-time event, and we call on Jordan to tighten the noose around the necks of the terrorists and to prevent any recurrence of such an event."

Evelyn Gordon contributed to this story.

Jordan, Israel hold joint search for attackers

STEVE RODAN

JORDAN and Israel conducted joint searches for the infiltrators who ambushed the IDF patrol yesterday, in an operation that had Israeli air force helicopters flying over Jordanian air space and put at least one senior IDF officer on Jordanian territory, military sources said.

"The coordination went very smoothly and the Jordanians did an excellent job," a military source said.

The searches were part of a closely-coordinated effort that has existed along the Jordanian-Israeli border for the last 18 months, including coordinated border patrols.

Sources said that after yesterday's attack, IDF officers called their Jordanian counterparts and a search was quickly launched on both sides of the border. Senior Jordanian officers, including the army chief of staff and the head of ground forces, arrived at the border.

IDF sources said both the Israeli and Jordanian armies are in close contact at all levels up to company commander. They said Israel has helped train Jordanian forces serving along the border to better spot potential infiltrators.

This effort is believed to have helped Jordan handle the wave of Syrian-sponsored infiltration into the Hashemite kingdom over the last two months. At the Arab League summit in Cairo, which ended earlier this week, Jordan's King Hussein presented his Syrian counterpart, Hafez Assad, with a list of 50 incidents of terrorist infiltration.

A Jordanian security source said the nation's intelligence services have been successful in preventing virtually all of the attempted attacks to the kingdom, including an attempt to attack Israeli tourists earlier this year.

Mordechai: Gov't must balance commitments against threats

EVELYN GORDON

THE government wants to honor its commitments under the Oslo accords, but will have to rethink its position if fulfilling these commitments would produce security threats, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said during a tour of Hebron yesterday.

"In principle, we want to keep the agreements," he said in an interview with Israel Radio. "The main issue which is worrying us, and which also worried the previous government, is the very special security problems which exist in the city of Hebron. Any mistake we make now, any excess risk that we take, could come back to haunt us in the future. We therefore prefer to wait a while [to study the issue]."

Mordechai, who met with both settlement leaders and Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, told the latter that the new government's view of the political situation is not the same as that of the previous government, and that this would influence the way it saw its commitments under the agreements, according to Hebron spokesman Noam Amon. In particular, he said, this meant that the government would demand compliance from the Palestinian Authority as a condition for fulfilling its own obligations.

Settlement leaders emerged from the meeting happy with what they had heard, despite the fact that Mordechai refused to promise no redeployment would take place.

"We left with the feeling that [the government's] deliberations would take us into account," said Kiryat Arba Local Council head Zvi Kazover. "He promised one

important thing: To study Hebron's serious security problems."

Natshe, meanwhile, warned Mordechai that failure to redeploy in Hebron would bring the peace process to a halt. He told Israel Radio after the meeting that he received the impression from Mordechai that the government would make its decision on the issue soon.

Leaders of the Jewish community in Hebron used the opportunity to tell Mordechai of their opposition to any redeployment, or to any armed Palestinian police presence in Hebron.

Village mourns fallen tracker

DAVID RUDGE

RESIDENTS of Arab al-Shibli on the slopes of Mt. Tabor were in mourning yesterday following the death of Sgt. Ashraf Shibli in the ambush by Palestinian gunmen of an IDF patrol in the Jordan rift region.

Ashraf's father, who served in the army for 12 years, said his son had been keen to join, and had wanted to take an officer training course.

Local council chairman Ali Shibli said Ashraf was well-known in the village, which has a population of 3,000 people, and was liked by all.

Ali Shibli said Ashraf's death brought the number of villagers killed while in the IDF to nine, most of them having died while serving as trackers.

"We are all very upset, but we must not allow those who are trying to disrupt the peace process to succeed. All the world will unite against those extremists whose aim is to create hatred," he said.

Police recommend charging Eitan

BILL HUTMAN

THE police investigation file on Environment and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan has been transferred to Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, apparently with a recommendation that he be charged for misusing a confidential IDF document.

The police spokesman, in a statement, confirmed that the file was turned over to the attorney-general. He refused to comment further.

But police sources said the file included a recommendation that the Tsomet Party leader be charged for using a confidential IDF document that contained incriminating information about a Tsomet activist, to force the activist out of the party.

Eitan was cleared by police of allegations he misused campaign contributions from the 1992 election, according to the sources. The allegations concerning the IDF document also relate to that election campaign.

It is now up to Ben-Yair to decide whether to accept the police recommendations. If he does, he must ask the Knesset to lift Eitan's immunity so he can be indicted.

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Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, and be placed in Tenders Box No. 1, in the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.
No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

Russian TV campaign resumes, Zyuganov complains of bias

JULIA RUBIN
MOSCOW

FREE campaign ads returned to the airwaves yesterday a week before Russia's election, and Communist candidate Gennady Zyuganov said in his that his message is being drowned and distorted.

"For 48 hours a day, from dawn until midnight, we get up with Mr. Yeltsin and go to sleep with him, while talented people in Russia cannot outline their different point of view," Zyuganov said in a five-minute spot on Public Television.

Zyuganov later told a news conference he had filed a protest to election authorities and parliament accusing Yeltsin of pressuring local government officials to campaign for him and of raiding the budget for campaign money.

Zyuganov meets Yeltsin in a runoff next week and the free TV and radio campaign spots may be particularly valuable for him. He has traditionally shunned television and his lackluster campaign is short of funds.

Yeltsin, backed by Russia's major networks and newspapers, gets heavier coverage on daily newscasts and leads opinion polls. Before the first round of voting, on June 16, Yeltsin rarely appeared on his own TV spots, presumably to avoid over-exposure.

Yeltsin's campaign continued that strategy yesterday, letting supporters

speaking for him and showing Soviet documentary footage of famine and civil war in the 1920s, food lines in the '50s and empty shelves in the '80s.

"Communists have not changed even their name. They won't change their methods," it warns.

Zyuganov, who supports a return to many Soviet-style economic controls, accused Yeltsin of falsely saying Communists want to "take somebody backwards."

"I do not think that the millions of (Communist) voters voted for going backwards, for having gulags, lines," he said. "It is not so."

Zyuganov, who turned 52 yesterday, also renewed calls for a televised debate with Yeltsin and for a coalition government.

He told the news conference that he, too, has given some of his TV and radio time to "comrades" who will speak for him.

Zyuganov told reporters Yeltsin is "cheating on a massive scale," spending billions of dollars in state funds on his campaign.

"This is the same money which is not paid to teachers, doctors, servicemen, pensioners," he said. "Such illegal practices... could call into question the results of the vote

for Yeltsin."

Yeltsin, meanwhile, has been shaking up his government and trying to project a forceful image on everything from the war in Chechnya to paying back wages.

The most difficult part of the shakeup, he said in an interview published yesterday, was firing his long-time friend and bodyguard, Alexander Kozhakov, who reformers said was plotting to cancel the elections.

"I owe him a lot," Yeltsin told the weekly *Argumenty i Fakty*, and said he and Kozhakov would remain close.

"I can be friends with Alexander Kozhakov and his family - that's my personal affair. But if he wants to join big politics, let him do it from the main entrance rather than the backstairs."

A poll by the All-Russian Public Opinion Center, conducted June 18-20, indicates Yeltsin's alliance with retired general Alexander Lebed has helped the president's campaign. Lebed, who finished third in the first round of voting, was named Yeltsin's new national security chief.

Center director Yuri Levada told reporters yesterday the poll, with a 4 percentage-point margin of error, gave Yeltsin 53 percent to Zyuganov's 38 percent, Interfax news agency reported. (AP)



Dimitra Papandreou kisses the coffin of her husband, the late former Greek prime minister, Andreas Papandreou, in Athens's Metropolitan Church before the start of the funeral procession. See adjacent story. (Reuters)

Greeks flock to Athens for Papandreou funeral

ATHENS (AP) - Socialist party supporters from all over Greece flocked to Athens yesterday to attend the state funeral of Andreas Papandreou, the immensely popular former premier and leader of the ruling party.

Papandreou died Sunday of a heart attack at age 77. Since then, tens of thousands of people passed by his flag-draped coffin in Athens' central Orthodox cathedral where he lay in state.

Mourners came by plane, train, ship and bus to attend Greece's first funeral with full state honors since the death of King Paul in 1964, ten years before the monarchy was abolished. They lined the route from the cathedral through Athens' center to the First Cemetery in the 39-degree heat (102 degrees Fahrenheit).

The funeral service was conducted by Greece's Orthodox Primate Archbishop Seraphim and other senior members of the church. Air conditioning was installed for the comfort of the nearly 500 people in the cathedral.

"Andreas Papandreou's appearance in politics in our country heralded a new period in politics in our country," said Premier Costas Simitis in his eulogy. He noted that Papandreou gave up a career as a professor of economics in the United States, where he was dean of the department of economics at the University of California at Berkeley before running for office in Greece in 1964.

"Although he had secured a bright academic career on an international level, he preferred the role of politics. Because he believed in the power of dreams, in the humanization of society, in Greece's renewal," Simitis

said.

Papandreou was also active in fighting a rightwing military junta from 1967 to 1974, founding a resistance group that was the precursor of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement, or PASOK, that he founded in 1974 and led with an iron grip until his death.

Papandreou's 41-year-old wife Dimitra, his former wife of 38 years, Margaret, and their four children stood beside the casket. Organizers and police did not have an immediate estimate of how many people had gathered for the funeral.

Flags flew at half staff and yesterday was declared a day of national mourning. The civil service, banks, archaeological sites and museums were closed, while labor unions called a work stoppage in the private sector and public utilities for the duration of the funeral so that employees could attend.

Papandreou held no state office when he died, which was reflected in the fairly low Cabinet level of many of the representatives of about 80 governments who attended.

Greece's Costis Stephanopoulos, Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Glafkos Clerides of Cyprus were the only heads of state. The premiers of the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Albania, Slovenia, Armenia and the Australian state of Victoria attended. Germany, Canada, Belgium, Iran, Turkey, Croatia, Georgia and Malta sent their foreign ministers. Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin represented the United States, Vice-Premier Vitaly Ignatenko represented Russia and Vice-President Abdel Halim Kadam came from Syria.

Holocaust museum divides Germany's Jews

BONN (Reuters) - A split emerged among Germany's Jewish leaders yesterday over whether to add a new Holocaust museum to the list of projects which aim to keep memories of the Nazi slaughter alive but compete for scarce financing.

"We have too much responsibility to simply launch something like this without being certain it can be brought to fruition," Michel Friedmann, a board member at the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said of the Berlin museum project.

"The danger is that, because of the welter of ideas and suggestions, too little comes of it," he told German Radio.

Other prominent Jews have backed the Central Museum against Crimes against Humanity, proposed in 1993 as Germany's main documentation center for the Holocaust and other atrocities.

The debate has taken on new dimensions because another big project - erecting a Holocaust monument in Berlin - remains

stalled by political controversy and a shortage of funds.

"I admire the courage of the museum proponents to start such an initiative at all given the sluggish flow of funds for the Holocaust monument," Ignatz Bubis, leader of Germany's Jewish community, told the Berliner Morgenpost newspaper this week.

He has also warned against the danger of the monument project being "talked to death" unless officials act soon.

The museum project is being pushed by the Hanover-based Cultural Peace and Conflict Research Institute, which has lined up prominent figures from politics and the arts as backers.

It says its goal is to "reveal the Holocaust comprehensively in its singularity and cynicism" as well as document subsequent atrocities ranging from Cambodia to former Yugoslavia.

Lea Rosh, a driving force behind the Holocaust monument project, defended the museum plan this week, telling the Berliner

Morgenpost it would be a "necessary and a sensible complement" to other sites in Germany.

The governments of Berlin and the surrounding state of Brandenburg have opposed the museum plan, insisting instead on fixing up the state's Sachsenhausen and Ravensbrueck concentration camp sites, now in disrepair.

After all, they say, there can be no more effective reminder of the Holocaust than the original death camps themselves.

Friedmann said he liked the idea of the Holocaust museum in principle because it could help enlighten young people about the rise of Nazism and murderous anti-semitism. But now it was time to set priorities, and get on with the job, he added.

Bubis has accused German officials of footdragging on plans for the country's first national Holocaust memorial, whose cornerstone is set to be laid on January 27 - Germany's Holocaust Memorial Day - in central Berlin in 1999.

Zulus finally get to vote, under heavy security

DURBAN (AP) - With thousands of armed police and soldiers standing guard, voting in South Africa's most turbulent region went off smoothly almost everywhere yesterday in elections for local leaders delayed twice by violence and political wrangling.

While the voting is for local officials only, it is considered a significant barometer of the strength of the nation's two leading black parties - Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom party - in the traditional Zulu homeland of KwaZulu-Natal province.

Two polling stations closed in the course of the morning. One at Umlazi, outside Durban, when scuffling broke out between unemployed people who were angry at not having been employed as officials, an independent radio station reported.

Another closed but later reopened after Inkatha supporters chased away people they claimed were not residents of the ward near Stanger, 80 km north of Durban.

At most stations voting started at 7 a.m. and was delayed only by logistical problems.

In Donnybrook, one of the areas worst hit by violence in recent months, voters dressed up against near freezing temperatures, sometimes hoping for the same things from different parties.

Caleb Sbelembu, 57, hoped that after local elections the ANC would provide more roads. He had just walked three km from his hut across one of the district's rolling hills.

"We are long suffering," Sbelembu said.

Bill Dlamini, 56, also hoped for electricity, roads and clinics closer than 25 km from his hillside home, as they are at present. But he was voting for Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha party.

"I vote for him because I am born Zulu," Dlamini said.

But three of his children would vote the other way, and he didn't understand that.

"I support them. I buy them food. I don't know why they changed," Dlamini said.

Polls close at 10 p.m. with the first results expected today afternoon at the earliest. The poor communications and infrastructure in rural KwaZulu-Natal meant final results were unlikely until next week.

About 3.2-million people, or 75 percent of those eligible, registered to cast ballots.

Police and soldiers set up roadblocks and searched for weapons Tuesday in final preparations for the vote.

Posters of Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi lined the highways and

winding, rural roads, showing the two major parties were depending on the personal popularity of their national leaders to win votes for officials akin to mayors and district commissioners.

The ANC and Inkatha have fought for control of the Zulu heartland for 12 years. More than 14,000 people have died in the Zulu-versus-Zulu conflict, which remains the single greatest threat to stability in post-apartheid South Africa.

Calls for peace from Inkatha and ANC leaders in recent weeks, along with the heavy security, raised hopes of violence-free voting.

But both parties complain that some rival-controlled areas remain off-limits to their candidates and supporters. The province continues to be one of the most dangerous areas in South Africa, with scores of people dying each month.

An Inkatha statement Tuesday said one of its officials, Dabada Mbonambi, was shot and killed in a "creeping style" in his home on Sunday night. Another official, Sam Khumalo, was gunned down outside his home on Monday.

It was unclear whether those deaths - or any of the dozens of others in KwaZulu-Natal in recent days - were linked to politics.

Major urges Diana to accept divorce settlement

LONDON (Reuters) - British Prime Minister John Major believes a divorce settlement offered by Prince Charles to Princess Diana is astonishingly generous and has urged Diana to accept it, the *Sun* newspaper said yesterday.

The *Sun*, Britain's best-selling tabloid, said the settlement offered by the heir to the throne was believed to be worth 20 million pounds (NIS 102 million), including a lump sum, annual income, properties and expenses.

Major's office confirmed that the prime minister met Diana, separated from Charles since 1992, on Monday but declined to reveal what was discussed.

Princess Diana's spokeswoman, Jane Atkinson, said the 45-minute meeting was "one of her regular meetings with the prime minister" - she is believed to see Major every six months. Atkinson also

declined to give details.

Details of the settlement were given to the government earlier this month and ministers were astonished, the *Sun* said.

"It was regarded as too generous. But the prince is determined not to appear mean. He wants a line drawn under the whole matter," it said.

The *Daily Star*, another tabloid, said the offer included an annual income for Diana of 750,000 pounds (NIS 3.8 million). It speculated a divorce announcement was imminent.

"Some royals are thought to favor an official announcement just before the England-Germany, Euro 96 soccer clash to lessen the impact," it said.

Diana, 34, has been embroiled in a bitter divorce battle with the father of her two boys since she agreed to end the 15-year-old marriage in February.

White House averts contempt-of-Congress vote

WASHINGTON (AP) - On the eve of congressional testimony by two central figures in the FBI files controversy, the White House staved off a potentially embarrassing contempt-of-Congress vote over travel office documents.

House Republicans called off the threatened vote after the White House agreed to let some lawmakers view 2,000 pages of the subpoenaed documents concerning the 1993 travel office firings, for which President Clinton had claimed executive privilege.

"We averted a constitutional crisis," White House counsel Jack Quinn said after he and Rep. William Clinger, Republican of Pennsylvania, chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, emerged from a meeting on Capitol Hill.

It was the second time in a month that White House aides averted a criminal contempt vote by the House in their dispute with the Republican-led committee over documents. The vote had been scheduled for today.

Clinger's committee was to hold a hearing today on the other documents debacle impugning the administration: the White House's improper gathering of FBI background files on hundreds of presidential employees from the Reagan and Bush years.

In the latest disclosure the Army detailed in the middle of the furor gathered FBI reports on 300 current and former national security staffers including Bush administration national security adviser Brent Scowcroft. That was in addition to the previously known collection of 407 files of former White House employees.

Clinger said he believed it was the recent "storm of publicity" over the FBI files that made the White House change course and agree to show the travel office documents.

It was the batch of travel office documents handed over by the White House last month that led to the discovery that 407 FBI files had been obtained improperly. Among the employees whose files were gathered was fired travel office chief Billy Dale.

To sidestep the impasse over the travel office documents, the White House agreed to let a handful of committee members, both Republicans and Democrats, view material still withheld.

Buddhism's 'Dead Sea Scrolls' found

LONDON (Reuters) - The British Library has found what it believes to be Buddhism's equivalent of the "Dead Sea Scrolls", written on strips of birch tree bark dating from as early as the second century AD, researchers said yesterday.

The manuscripts on 60 separate fragments of different sizes include some of Buddha's poems, sermons and treatises.

They were written up to 600 years after Buddha's death in either the fourth or fifth century BC, but scholars say they are the oldest Buddhist texts ever found

and provide a valuable insight into the early foundations of the faith.

"What we get is a very vivid picture of how the people of that time conceived of the Buddha," said Richard Salomon, an expert in ancient languages from the University of Washington in Seattle, who helped authenticate the manuscripts. He compared the discovery to the Dead Sea Scrolls.

"What we have here is almost certainly the early extant Buddhist texts," said Salomon.

They are believed to be part of the canon of the Sarvastivadin sect which dominated Gandhara - now on the Pakistan-Afghan border.

Gandhara was one of the great centres of Buddhism in ancient times from where it spread to central and eastern Asia.

The British Library, the national library based in central London, said it bought the manuscripts from a dealer for a "five-figure" sum. It gave no further details.

They had to be unfurled with extreme care. "They looked like 2,000-year-old cigars that someone bad stepped on," said Salomon.

"Hope" The Jewel of Peace

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אברהם בן ישראל

Disney's Hunch raises eyebrows in LA

THE Walt Disney Company, which is under threat of a boycott by 16 million Baptists for "disparaging Christian values" is bracing itself for more criticism as it releases its new animated film, The Hunchback of Notre Dame in America.

critic. "It's darker and more intense than most Disney fare." Animators take full advantage of the plight of lonely, tortured Quasimodo, confined to a bell tower and banned from society by his evil surrogate father Frolo, while he yearns for the sensual Esmeralda.

JOHN HISCOCK LOS ANGELES [and] then almost murdered as well. "And then there's one part where Frolo is watching the fire and the flames start to dance and become the image of Esmerelda's body, which some people considered a bit provocative."

gargoyles and govt simply to create a demand for toys. "We can only wonder, if Disney continues along such lines of adult-themed movies crammed with toy possibilities, where will they go next?" she wrote.

Let your fingers do the walking

CAVEAT EMPTORI RUTHIE BLUM

spread by word of mouth," she said, pointing to the company's policy of sending a gift to a customer who recruits another customer.

SO FAR, this service is available mainly in the center of the country - from Rehovot and Yavne to the suburbs of Haifa.

Each "chapter" of goods represents a different section of the supermarket. Passon-sized color photos of the items (from tuna to toiletries) decorate the pages, each with its own catalog number and description (e.g. name, weight, fat-content).

According to Telesal manager Sarah Romano, in spite of the service's low profile in terms of advertising, the company has an annual growth rate of 60 percent.

flower deliveries, special sales, holiday packages, and birthday packages. And, for shoppers who never stray from their weekly fare, a standing order can be given, enabling you to request "the usual."

"If you want Tuva 5-percent cottage cheese, and there is only Tuva 3-percent cottage cheese, for example," said Romano, "we want to know how much of a difference that makes to you."

My own order arrived safely, soundly, and during the estimated time period I was given. Tipping the delivery men, as I had been informed, was unnecessary.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.



Mr. Biro, inventor of the ballpoint, finally honored in his native land

IN England, a ballpoint pen is popularly called a " biro," but few know why. Because in the country of his birth, even encyclopedias forgot to mention Jozsef Laszlo Biro.

immediately upon contact with paper. "It got me thinking how this process could be simplified right down to the level of an ordinary pen."

"They bought the patent," wrote Biro, "to keep me from selling it to a competitor, and then told me they had no intention of using it."

An aromatherapeutic treat

FLAIR GREER FAY CASHMAN

I promise you'll feel great for the rest of the week," says Jacqueline as she gently massages essential oils into my back.

Jacqueline, an accounts clerk turned beautician, works as a beauty hostess for Schestowitz, an importer and distributor of fragrances, cosmetics and skin treatment products.

The pressure movements of the fingers combined with the essential oils are supposed to improve the condition of the skin, tone and relax muscles, stimulate blood flow and cellular exchanges and

based on pure essential oils. Other high quality companies include Clarins and Biotherm.

The main reason for the dearth of competition, says Herve Lesieur, president and owner of Decleor, is the cost of the raw material. "It takes 100 kilos of roses to get 100 grams of essential oil of roses," he points out.

Lesieur is in Israel to pave the way for the September launch of Decleor's new Whitening Skin Care range developed at the special request of the company's Asian distributors.

Yet for all that, there are relatively few international companies that specialize in products

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Twin-headed serpent

AS if on cue, following Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's attack on Syria for harboring terrorist splinter groups in Damascus, one of those splinters - Abu Mousa's Palestine National Liberation Organization - claimed responsibility for yesterday's murderous unprovoked attack on the IDF in the Jordan Valley.
If anyone doubted that the terrorist fanatics of the Middle East were still active, Tuesday's horrendous truck bombing that killed 19 Americans and injured hundreds of people at the US Air Force complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, should further dispel such illusions. The explosion brought back the nightmare of the 1983 truck bomb in Beirut that killed 241 US Marines, also at a military barracks.
The two attacks were also a timely reminder that terrorists keep their promises, and those who harbor or arm them are as guilty as the perpetrators. The Muslim fundamentalist underground in Saudi Arabia (the Combatant Partisans of God) had vowed revenge for the beheading of the four terrorists recently found guilty of bombing the US military center in Riyadh last November. Hizbullah and the lunatic Palestinian fringe in Damascus have likewise been promising to accelerate their attacks on Israel.
The attackers who struck near Jericho, killing three IDF soldiers and wounding two others, clearly came from Jordan, yet no blame can be directed at Amman beyond whatever security lapse allowed the infiltrators to reach Israel from Jordan via Syria. Jordanian troops swiftly joined the IDF in combing the border to find the terrorists, and King Hussein promptly called Netanyahu to express his condolences and support. He correctly blamed those who aimed to sabotage the peaceful border between Israel and Jordan, and it was clear he meant his troublemaking northern neighbor.
If the Palestinian Authority's enthusiasm for rooting out terrorism was a fraction of Jordan's, all the people in this region - Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians - could forge a formidable security wall against the criminal sponsors of violent mischief in Damascus and Teheran. It should be obvious to all Arab leaders - as it is to Israelis - that Damascus would like nothing better than to subvert all borders on all fronts, for this is a regime that hates all its neighbors, he they Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis or occupied Lebanese.
The twin-headed serpent behind virtually all recent terrorism is the unholy alliance of Iran and Syria. Shi'ite eastern Saudi Arabia, of which Dhahran is the main city, has always been a fertile breeding ground for Iranian sub-

version, just as the Shi'ite community in Bahrain across the causeway from Dhahran has spawned an unprecedented wave of Iranian-backed terrorism this year in the formerly peaceful emirate.
It is depressing that although it is repeatedly noted that Syrian-Iranian terrorism is the fundamental threat facing all states in this region - and to Western interests here and beyond - it still seems impossible to forge a strategic alliance to combat it. Last weekend's Arab summit wasted its time griping about Israel, as usual, and, almost as disturbing, the European Union summit in Florence passed a nasty little resolution attacking the United States for its plans to sanction firms doing business with the Middle East's outlaw states - Iran, Iraq and Libya. If enlightened and democratic Europe cannot be persuaded to wage all-out war on the sponsors of terror, what can be expected of the feeble and strife-ridden sheikhs, kings and dictators of the Arab League?
The Sharm e-Sheikh conference earlier this year, following the four terrorist attacks in Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Tel Aviv, was a glimmer of hope that has fizzled out. The promised follow-up conference in Luxembourg, where it was hoped the Europeans would join Arab moderates, America and Israel in putting real muscle into a joint onslaught on terrorism, never convened. The Arab League summit returned that ineffectual and unholy alliance of terrorist and moderate states to the tried and tried old path of Israel-hating. It could have chosen to acknowledge publicly that Netanyahu's alleged "hard line" vis-a-vis negotiations could also have a positive impact when viewed as an even harder line against those who are enemies of Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt, Algeria and the Gulf states no less than they are enemies of Israel.
The treaties with Jordan and Egypt should be a clear message to all moderate Arab states that Israel doesn't care what type of government rules a neighboring state as long as it is not a terrorist regime. It is Syria's terrorism that has shown the "Syrian track" to be nothing more than a tangled undergrowth of violent and deceitful machinations. Hafez Assad had his chance to deal with the most amenable and friendly Israeli government he could have wished to face. He still could not cut a deal, nor moderate his vicious attitudes, nor disengage himself from his Iranian mullah friends. The time has come for his mask of "peace partner" to be stripped off. The face of terrorism beneath must be consigned to the isolated den of Middle Eastern pariahs under international censure and sanctions.



Saddam's sly revenge

YESTERDAY'S massive bomb blast in Saudi Arabia which devastated the US forces' residential quarter in the "secure" Khobar zone of Dhahran bore all the signs of another Iranian fundamentalist atrocity. That, at least, was the view of most "informed" experts on international terrorism.
Yet Israeli counter-intelligence people who have been analyzing the subject of Middle Eastern terror closely are convinced that, for once, Teheran isn't the culprit.
They point a finger directly at Saddam Hussein, who is still seeking revenge for the humiliation he suffered when US forces crushed his army and destroyed his ambition - a temporary setback, in his view - to topple the Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian regimes five years ago.
A clue to Saddam's motive lies in the fact that President Clinton faces elections in November. Saddam has never forgotten how he lived up to his boast that hated enemy George Bush would be "long forgotten" while he still ruled in Baghdad.
Saddam views Clinton as another "Satan" whom he is also determined to bury for keeping "his country until strict embargo conditions until very recently.
"Saddam is a man of immense cunning," an Israeli expert on the Iraq regime told us, "and revenge is integral to his mindset. Nothing will give him more joy than hearing commentators in Washington saying that the bombing in Saudi Arabia constitutes a heavy blow for Clinton before the elections.
"Saddam knows full well that the finger of suspicion will be pointed at Iran. And he will be as delighted as the cat who swallowed the cream at having fooled the entire world."
It is a fact that Israel, America, and Arab regimes like Jordan have repeatedly condemned the terrorist threat emanating from Iran. It was the main theme that the anti-terror meet in Sharm-e-Sheikh; and Clinton is hammering away at it in his attempt to persuade Western leaders to join him in outlawing the Iranian government until it stops its terror war against the rest of the world.
It has been proved that Iranians were behind the slaying of 240 US soldiers in Beirut in October 1983. Iranians were responsible for the 1992 bomb blast at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG
that resulted in over a score of deaths, and again in 1994, when 100 perished in an explosion that wrecked a Jewish communal center in the same city.
It's hardly a wonder that, with this record, the international bully boys of Teheran are now the targets of suspicion. And that's why Saddam is so pleased.
He felt snubbed by not being invited to last week's Arab summit in Cairo, and now, as our Saddam expert put it: "While the Iranians carry the can, Saddam rubs his hands in glee. He will look - and feel - innocent over having sent the dynamite-loaded road tanker to Khobar."
IT WAS thirst for revenge that made the Iraqi despot offer \$5 million reward to a band of international thugs if they killed George Bush while he was on a post-presidential visit to Kuwait in March 1993. Only at the very last minute and by sheer good fortune was the plot discovered and nipped in the bud.
Back then a combined CIA-FBI team despatched to Kuwait was surprised to discover that Saddam and not Iran was behind the plot.
Revenge isn't the only reason for yesterday's murderous attack on US soldiers in Saudi Arabia.
With a bit of luck, the US will intensify its pressure on Iran, especially with Clinton now having to prove that he is tough. With a lot of luck American forces might even strike at Iran, and that would be a double revenge for Saddam, who considers Iran his greatest enemy.
It is a much-strengthened Saddam who now sits in

Baghdad, looking on with satisfaction as European and Far Eastern powers jostle for a share of the vast sums which will result from their trading with Iraq. This comes in the wake of foolish and greedy actions by France, Germany and other countries who persuaded the UN to ease the oil embargo against Iraq.
There is yet another reason for Saddam to strike at Saudi Arabia. Like everyone else in the Middle East, he is aware of the massive internal struggle inside the Saudi Royal family over who is to take over from the ailing King Fahd.
On one side is Prince Bandar Sultan, deputy prime minister and father of the Saudi ambassador to the US.
The Americans would like him to succeed, for his main challenger is the religious, ultra-conservative Prince Abdullah. So anti-Western is Abdullah that he initially opposed the US Army rescuing Saudi Arabia when Saddam invaded Kuwait.
Complicating the issue is Abdullah's wife, sister to Rifat, who is the brother of Syrian President Assad. She wants Saudi Arabia to join the camp of the extremist anti-Western rulers in Damascus and Teheran. And she has immense influence over Abdullah.
When Fahd realized how Abdullah was being manipulated, he revoked his decision to put Abdullah on the throne, even though it meant delaying his retirement to the comfort of his vast fortress-palace in Malaga in southern Spain.
Yesterday's bomb blast will further unsettle the shaky position of the Royal House of Saud. Instability added to insecurity regarding the continuing flow of oil from the richest Arab country is bound to cause a jump in prices.
And all the while the cunning ruler of Baghdad will be smiling as the value of the oil the Europeans have now kindly allowed him to sell spirals upward.
This increased revenue will be very welcome. It will mean, among other things, more resources for the Iraqi tyrant to strike again at a weakened regime amid the shifting Arabian sands.
The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

Boxed in

GREER FAY CASHMAN
IF Prime Minister Netanyahu had stayed home and watched TV on Monday night instead of attending the Jerusalem 3000 festivities, the savings in security precautions would have been in the hundreds of thousands of shekels.
More important, the premier's absence would have allowed Jerusalemites to move freely about their own city.
When Yigal Amir assassinated Yitzhak Rabin last November, he didn't just murder the prime minister; he drastically limited my freedom of movement and that of any Israeli or visitor to this country who attends a function graced by the president or prime minister.
That senseless killing (which might have been averted had security forces been more alert and coordinated) generated an obsessive concern for the safety of the nation's leaders.
Since then, even if Ezer Weizman or Netanyahu or Shimon Peres make no more than a three-minute appearance at an affair, the other participants are required to show up two hours in advance and pass through an electronic security gate after emptying their pockets of keys, coins and other metallic objects.
How much money has been lost in possible business deals because of all the time wasted? How much quality time has been frittered away by people being forced to hang around endlessly?
To the credit of our public, most people - at least at the functions I've attended - accept the inconvenience with good grace. The Rabin murder was one tragedy too many and no one wants to witness another. If the new security measures are the price of safety, so be it.

BUT ARE THEY? And is it logical for so many people to be put out for one individual - even if he is the president or prime minister?
Precautions to protect our leaders go to such incredible extremes that on Monday night the residents of Jerusalem's Old City were quite literally ghettoized. From 8 p.m. until almost midnight they could neither enter nor exit via the Jaffa Gate, and coming in or going out through any of the other gates, entailed a huge detour, generally on foot.
I was visiting a friend who lives in the Old City, and we had planned to watch the fireworks display together from some good vantage point near David's Citadel.
We got as far as the back of the citadel - but were then prevented by police barriers from continuing. So I thought I'd go home and watch it all on TV.

Do us citizens a favor, Bibi, and say an occasional no when they invite you to a mass event

"But I couldn't even get to the Jaffa Gate. Police stopped me. My instinctive response was: 'I'm not Palestinian, I'm Jewish.'"
"It doesn't matter what you are," came the answer. "The rules are the same for everyone. You can't go through." If it was that important for me to get out, I was told, I could use the Zion Gate.
It was a long walk, and much of the path was unlit. It was also scary, because although there was one woman police officer on duty at Zion Gate itself, there were no security personnel whatsoever along the rest of the route until one came to the back of the Sultan's Pool. Anything might have happened.
Then as I turned toward Yemin Moshe (which is opposite the Old City), my way was barred three times.
By this time, my temper dangerously frayed, I screamed at police that I was sick and tired of being forced to walk around my own city, and that impeding my efforts to get home was completely undemocratic. Aware that bystanders were endorsing my comments, the officers on duty decided they didn't want any trouble and let me through.
Would it be so terrible if the president and the prime minister refused some invitations to mass events, letting it be known that it was in the interests of cutting security costs and allowing the public increased access to public places?
The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Holocaust survivor challenges Christians Domestic violence rears its ugly head

ALEXANDER ZVIELI

JACK Eisner was 15 years old when he fought the Germans in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. He raised the white-and-blue flag on top of one of the houses in the Muranowska Square, the site of the fiercest struggle. He was lucky to be one of the few who survived.

Today Eisner is mobilizing more than 100 prominent scholars, theologians and historians, leading Christian academics as well as Holocaust survivors, for an international symposium entitled *New Deal for the Jews*, to be held in the US in the fall.

Among those who have expressed their intention to participate are Dr. Yitzhak Arad, Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Joel Carmichael, Dr. Eugene Fisher, Rabbi Alexander Seindler, and Prof. Zvi Kolitz.

While Eisner gratefully acknowledges the work of Pope John XXIII and the current Pope John Paul II in improving the Vatican's relations with Jews, Judaism and Israel, these, he said were "only the first steps." He is trying to establish a basis for a continuous effort by all Christian denominations to purge themselves, in everyday life, in educational systems and literature, in seminars and on the pulpit, of all that is anti-Jewish.

Eisner wants an organization to promote this effort, and believes that Holocaust survivors should openly and courageously lead his new movement.

When the war ended, Eisner went to the US where he founded a successful import-export business. It was, however, during his first visit to Israel - and a return to Poland - in 1960 that he had



Warsaw Ghetto fighter Jack Eisner meets Pope John Paul II.

found his true vocation.

His deeply hidden and disturbing memories reawakened following a reunion with old comrades at Kibbutz Lohamei Hageta'ot and a visit to the ruins of his Warsaw Ghetto bunker. Eisner resolved to get rid of his survivor's guilt complex by telling his story. He wrote a best-seller, *The Survivor* (William Morrow, 1980), and Kensington Publishers, 1995). The play of the same name written by Susan Nanus, and the movie written by Academy Award-winner Abby Mann and directed by Moshe Mizrahi, were

based on his autobiography. During the '60s, Eisner challenged Hannah Arendt's description of Jews being like sheep to the slaughter. Together with Vladka Meed - who, as a young girl, had smuggled arms and ammunition into the ghetto - and with the assistance of other former ghetto fighters he founded the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization.

Through the years Eisner has organized numerous commemorations, founded lectures on the Holocaust at New York City Graduate Center and been highly

active in Jewish life. In 1982 he brought together a number of distinguished mental-health professionals for a symposium on how survivors should face their past and their children.

In 1993, on the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, he commissioned a memorial for the children of Warsaw. Made in France, it is a wall of plexiglass rocks. In each rock is a face of a ghetto child. The memorial, set up at the entrance to Warsaw's Gesia Street Jewish cemetery, is dedicated to the "Unknown

Ghetto Child."

On the left side he wrote that his grandmothers Masha and Hanna had 31 grandchildren and that he alone survived. On the right side is a poem, "The Little Smuggler" by Henryka Lazower, who was killed by the Nazis when she was 19. Eisner, the only living member of the former Warsaw Synagogue Children's Choir, was himself a little smuggler when he brought food and medicine for his starving family in the ghetto.

Eisner also restored the monument of Janusz Korczak and of his children at the same Gesia Street cemetery. The Mayor of Warsaw, Stanislaw Waganowski, Catholic Archbishop Henryk Muszynski, scores of other dignitaries and more than 2,000 Polish and Jewish children attended the ceremony.

And last year Eisner was one of the organizers of a Holocaust Memorial at the Vatican. Together with Gilbert Levine (who conducted the Royal Philharmonic), the actor Richard Dreyfuss (who read the Kaddish), and Rabbi James Rudin, he faced Pope John Paul II and an audience of 9,000 people.

Eisner, who today divides his time between New York and Caesarea, publicly blames Christianity for the evils that have beset the Jewish people.

Everywhere he goes he asks the same two questions: "How many of you know that Jesus was born and died a Jew?" Only 10 to 20 percent know the answer, he says.

But then he asks: "How many of you know that Judas was a Jew?" And when almost 100 percent raise their hands he tells them: "This is the problem! What is good and decent is never told to Christians..."

Domestic violence rears its ugly head

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I am a North American who recently slapped around his Israeli wife a bit. The reason: She never lets me finish a sentence. When I tried to reason with her, she justified her position by saying: "In Rome, do as the Romans do" - that is to say, it is accepted manners in Israel never to let a person finish a sentence.

"Listen to any interview on the radio or TV," she said. "Not even the leaders of the country are exempt. You have to adapt yourself to local customs."

Then I slapped her, telling her that in Israel wife-beating is also an accepted practice, with the press reporting that there are 200,000 battered wives here. When she began crying, I told her that Israeli habits were a two-way street.

She said if I ever slap her again, she will leave me. I told her if she ever interrupted me again, I would leave her. Do you have any solution?

**Harried Husband
Somewhere in Israel**

Dear Harried Husband,

If you consider "interrupting a sentence" and "slapping a bit" to be on a par with one another - even as an analogy - you are in need of some serious help.

As rude and irritating a habit as it is, the Israeli "custom" of "never letting a person finish a sentence" is a case of bad manners.

Conversely, no matter how widespread domestic violence may be, it is not "customary." It is criminal, immoral, and derives from deep sickness. Your wife's threat to leave you the next time you assault her physically is not comparable to your own ultimatum about being granted courteous audience.

Perhaps it is finishing the marriage - and not a sentence - which is really behind the dangerous dynamic into which the two of you have entered. If so, you might as well acknowledge it, before you find yourself looking for further "legitimate" reasons for putting up your dukes.

If not, there is hope for the future. Through couple counseling, for example, even your sahra wife might be able to make the effort to adapt to your "genetic" North American ways.

Dear Ruthie, I am a divorced mother of an eight-year-old. My ex-husband has custody of our child every weekend. Every Saturday night, our child returns home completely out of whack. My ex has no idea how to calm our son or relax with him. So it's restaurants, films, sweets, and toys which fill these weekends.

This is not so surprising, as he was no different as a father when we were still married. But I cannot seem to get it into his thick skull that he is doing more harm than good, and that I am sick of having to be left restarting orkiz during the rest of the week. How can I get him to listen?

**Extinguisher of Fatherly Fires
Somewhere in Israel**

Dear Fire Extinguisher,

It is unlikely that you will ever "get" him to listen. People absorb only what they are ready to acknowledge, on the basis of their own realizations. Don't let this bother you too much though, since "getting" him to listen has no bearing on whether he will agree with your assessment.

What you can do is listen to yourself. Busy placing blame, you are wasting precious energy which could be utilized more effectively to help your child.

The way your ex-husband spends his weekends with your son at this point is a given. If no real abuse is involved, you should work at readjusting your response to your child's return from his father's custody. Perhaps you are so ensconced in the assumption that your weeks must be spent "restoring order" that you are losing sight of possible contributions on your part to your child's being "out of whack."

Maybe inadvertently you have been conveying a confusing message to him about his father - one which is serving to add fuel to the flames. So, rather than bracing yourself for these Saturday-night homecomings, try exhibiting a little more delight about the importance of the father-son bond as a whole, and a little less disapproval over the specific content of the visits. After all, chocolate stains are a lot easier to remove than parental schisms are to alleviate.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

Killing Fields leader 'meets his own death'

TOM GROSS

POL Pot, regarded by many as the most evil, depraved murderer since Hitler, is almost certainly dead.

Intelligence sources in Phnom Penh - credited as being reliable by diplomats stationed there - confirmed rumors that the shadowy and obsessively secretive Khmer Rouge leader, who wiped out up to a quarter of the Cambodian population, died at the beginning of this month. He had "contracted malaria" in his mosquito-ridden jungle hideout near the Thai border.

The Maoist revolutionary, whose Cambodian "killing fields" claimed nearly two million lives, was 68. He had not been seen in public since 1978, when the Soviet-backed communist Vietnamese invaded Cambodia and put an end to a four-year reign of terror which had virtually returned the country to medieval times.

With Chinese backing, Pol Pot ousted the American-backed Lon Nol regime in 1975. Following his strident Maoist philosophy, he began to reshape Cambodia. His aim was to create an ethnically pure, self-reliant peasant society of "total communism" free from all foreign influence.

The result was to turn Cambodia into a huge, nightmarish agricultural labor camp.

To bring about his Maoist utopia, it was necessary to first return the country to "Year Zero." Populations were driven out of the cities and the middle classes wiped out.

Those who used toothbrushes or wore glasses were regarded as "bourgeois elements" and led away for execution by Pol Pot's teenage soldiers.

The rest of the population was forced to eat insects and frogs they found in the fields. Punishment for eating fruit or rice - which were deemed to belong to the "general masses" - was immediate execution. The famines that



Pol Pot (left), one of the world's most horrific mass murderers, and the remains of some of his victims (right).

resulted were proportionally even worse than those Mao himself had inflicted on China.

Those left alive were subject to relentless and systematic indoctrination of the kind depicted in the 1984 Oscar-winning film *The Killing Fields*.

Supposed enemies were subjected to torture involving whips, chains and poisonous reptiles. Particular savagery was directed at the country's ethnic minorities.

While brutal beyond belief, the highly secretive Pol Pot - a former schoolteacher born Saloth Sar - was also credited even by his enemies as having a hypnotic charm.

Known in the Khmer Rouge as "Brother No. 1," he knew how to be mild-mannered and had a soft smile. Those who heard him were said to feel enlightened by his teaching, his explanations and his vision.

The Cambodian monarch, Norodom Sihanouk, who was held prisoner by the Khmer Rouge from 1976 to 1979, later told of a three-hour conversation he had had with the Khmer Rouge leader.

"I knew he was mad," he said. "But he talked so well, in such a spellbinding way, that I could not help listening to him without interruption."

On another occasion, the king said Pol Pot appeared as "a very gentle person, a lamb."

BORN INTO a middle-class family, Pol Pot learned his Maoism in the company of left-wing intellectuals in the cafes of Paris, where he studied radio electronics in the 1950s. He had previously studied at a Buddhist temple where for a short time he was a monk.

He drove his first wife mad in the 1980s and she now lives in a mental hospital in China. He has an eight-year-old daughter by his second wife, a peasant woman and militant Khmer Rouge fighter now in her thirties.

Pol Pot was unrepentant to the end. He even said he had not killed enough. "Our work is not complete. I was too trusting of others," he declared.

The Khmer Rouge itself lives on, its remaining 6,000 active

fighters still receiving Chinese support while the West turns a blind eye. Ironically, King Sihanouk's royalists also now cooperate with the Khmer Rouge, as a tool in their fight against the Vietnamese-backed communists.

Although the Khmer Rouge fighting force is much smaller than it was a few years ago, it is still capable of causing havoc beyond its base on the Thai-Cambodia frontier.

It is believed to be behind the killing of Haing Ngor, the 55-year-old doctor-turned-actor, who won an Oscar for his role in *The Killing Fields*, and was himself a survivor of torture by the Khmer Rouge. Ngor, a fierce critic of Pol Pot, was gunned down at his home in Los Angeles earlier this year.

Following Pol Pot's own teachings that total secrecy was necessary to confuse the enemy, the Khmer Rouge is unlikely to confirm its leader's death, and his

final demise may prove impossible to ever verify - though there have been eye-witness reports of his funeral taking place.

International experts investigating Pol Pot's crimes have recently said that previous estimates of the numbers he killed - either executed as enemies of his radical agrarian revolution or as a result of overwork, disease or starvation - were too low, and the true number who died under his rule is between 1.5 and two million out of a total Cambodian population of eight million.

The full story of the West's role in preventing him and his evil henchmen from being brought to justice is yet to be told. And although evidence of his crimes - in the form of photographs of mass graves and piles of skulls - is there for all to see, it seems that, like many leading Nazis, Pol Pot is another mass murderer who has evaded justice.

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Tuesday
July 23

ON THE HALUTZIM TRAIL

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Monday
August 5

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NIS 170 (including lunch).
Tour guide: YONI SHAPIRO

Tuesday
August 6

JERUSALEM OF THE SECOND TEMPLE

During the Roman era Jerusalem was considered one of the great cities of the world. Wealthy Roman occupiers lived alongside Jewish tradition in the shadow of Herod's temple. We'll tour reconstructed ancient sites and feel what it was like to live in Jerusalem in the first century C.E. Lunch at the Culinarium, the Roman restaurant in the Cardo.
NIS 180 (including lunch).
Tour guide: NAOMI MILLER

Tuesday
August 20

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN

The Bar Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves and the study of the Torah came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee and the towns of Usha, Zippori, Shefaram and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim. Lunch at Hoshaya.
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1996

Meridor establishes group to monitor gov't spending

DAVID HARRIS

FINANCE Minister Dan Meridor, after meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday, announced the creation of a permanent group to monitor the government's success in keeping to its budget.

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that far from the Israeli government meeting having 100 days grace, it does not even have seven.

Meridor pledges strong support for Bank of Israel

EVELYN GORDON

FINANCE Minister Dan Meridor expressed strong support for the independence of the Bank of Israel in his first speech to the Knesset yesterday.

bank governor has two jobs: managing ordinary central bank functions such as monetary policy, and serving as the government's economic adviser. Frenkel's participation on the council is simply a means of fulfilling this second task, he said.

"We must take care that those who are having trouble making it are not hurt," he said. Meridor also leveled criticism at the previous government for measures such as the generous public-sector wage increases that swelled the budget.

Food manufacturers expect problems in competing with imports

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

LOCAL food sales are expected to grow 8.5 percent, to \$9 billion, but the sector is expected to experience difficulties because of growing competition from imports.

gram to expose the economy to processed food imports from third-world countries is very harmful, explaining that the country is exposing itself to imports without receiving anything in return.



Qazi Hussain Ahmed, chief of Pakistan's right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami Party, waves to supporters after the funeral for two party activists in Rawalpindi.

Rockwell wants Israel's 'unique' engineers

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ROCKWELL, the giant California-based high-tech conglomerate, yesterday announced plans to expand its semiconductor systems division - the company's fastest-growing segment - by establishing a design center in Herzliya.

to high-tech companies, especially at a time when they're feeling the pinch. "The semiconductor industry is currently under pressure in terms of lower share prices and [a drop] in orders," Holtzman said.

Jordanian border open to trade

DAVID HARRIS

THE Jordanian-Israeli border was opened for commercial trade for the first time yesterday.

crossing points throughout the day. "We have already had many requests to use the route," said Customs and VAT Authority spokeswoman Idit Lev-Zerachia.

Romania to award telephone licenses in rural areas

BUCHAREST (Reuters) - Romania has moved towards liberalizing its telecommunications, under a new bill which opens up its rural areas to private telephone operators, an official said yesterday.

promulgated next week by President Ion Iliescu, allows Romtelecom to hold tenders to award licenses for rural areas to private operators.

Institute to unify European telephone systems. Romania has an analogue technology mobile phone network covering eight cities, operated in partnership with Telefonica de Espana SA under a 10-year license.

Advertisement for Israel Discount Bank with a graphic of a globe and the text 'It's a Small World!'.

Advertisement for TARGET Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents, listing purchase and redemption prices.

Advertisement for PRIME Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents, listing purchase and redemption prices.

Advertisement from the Ministry of Transport for an invitation to tender for the supply of meteorological services.

UBS cautious on Israeli bank shares

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi's shares are more compelling than those of Bank Hapoalim, but investors should still be cautious about bank shares, the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), one of the world's most prominent banks, said in a recent report.

for 1996 and 1997, respectively (versus previous estimates of NIS 0.38 and NIS 0.4). This reiterates the Leumi shares significantly, such that the improved operating outlook is priced at a discount even to Bank Hapoalim.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Motorola gets China contract: Motorola's North Asia Cellular Infrastructure Division has been awarded a multi-million dollar contract to supply the first Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) in the Guizhou Province of China.

IBM, Point of Sale in joint venture: IBM and Point of Sale, a Herzliya-based retail software company, have signed a \$2 million deal to install computerized cash register systems in all Hamashbir Lazarchan retail outlets.

Project to build chip-inspecting machine: Industries Development Corporation, a Kiriya Bialik-based developer of a multilayer ceramic capacitor inspection system, and Electro Scientific Industries, an Oregon-based maker of electronic products, have entered a 15-month, \$1 million program to define, develop and commercialize a stand-alone machine that can inspect the multilayer ceramic capacitors used in virtually all electronic goods.

Vishey seeks to buy Kemet Electronics: Vishey Intertechnology Inc. has announced it is seeking to buy Kemet Electronics Corp. for an undisclosed sum. Vishey, a Pennsylvania-based company with four plants in Israel and plans to build a fifth, is the largest US maker of passive electronic components.

Israel, Hungary to share export information: The Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Company has signed an agreement with MEHIB, its Hungarian counterpart, to cooperate in information exchange, risk evaluation and examination of new export markets.

Shekel deposit offers 'contrary' interest: Israel Discount Bank is offering a new shekel deposit with a floating interest rate that changes in the opposite direction to the interest in the economy.

Over half of Russian immigrants employed: Of the 546,000 new immigrants aged 15 and over that arrived in Israel since 1990, 265,000 were employed in the first quarter of the year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Moroccan goods at 'Man and His World': Moroccan goods will for the first time be sold at the 'Man and His World' fair which begins in Tel Aviv next week.

Haifa industrial exodus hurts support industries: A survey by the Israel Manufacturers Association suggests business support services in the Haifa region are suffering as industries continue moving out of the area.

Gordon Auction brings in \$1.22 million: The 39th Gordon Auction this week brought in a total of \$1.22 million, just a little short of a hoped-for \$1.5m. Top prices were \$104,000 for a Mordecai Ardon, and an amazing \$105,000 for a Nahum Gutman landscape.

US May durables orders soar on strong aircraft demand: Strong demand for new commercial aircraft sent total orders for manufactured durable goods soaring in May, the US Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

Table titled 'ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS' showing exchange rates for various currencies and bank notes.

Handwritten text at the bottom right of the page.

Key Representative Rates, US dollar, Sterling, Mark, New York market indexes, Other stock market indexes, Israeli stocks in NY, INFL MONEY, Dollar crossrates, Labor rates, Foreign financial data, INFL COMMODITIES, US commodities, London commodities, Spot market metals, New York metal futures, London metal futures.

TEL AVIV STOCKS, Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, MORNING, Commercial, Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Trade & Services, OIL Exploration, PARALLEL LIST, Property, Building & Agriculture, International Stock Prices, NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, FRANKFURT.

TASE stocks fall for third day, TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET, FELICE MARANZ, Two-Sided Index, Maof Index, ISRAELI stock indexes fell for a third day as the shekel strengthened against the dollar, hurting exporters' profits and presaging a worsening trade deficit.

INFL MONEY, Dollar crossrates, Labor rates, Foreign financial data, INFL COMMODITIES, US commodities, London commodities, Spot market metals, New York metal futures, London metal futures.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK, THE PEOPLE YOU CAN BANK ON, SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK, INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES, NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, FRANKFURT.

Eurobourses close mixed, WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP, LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar closed firmer against the yen in Europe yesterday as Japanese buying and after news of a bigger-than-expected rise in US durable goods orders. But European bores closed mixed, with London strogger, Frankfurt flat and Paris down after a lower opening for Dow industrial on Wall Street.

Ben-Yair: Indictments have no political motive

EVELYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair indignantly denied yesterday that a recent wave of indictments and investigations against right-wing politicians is politically motivated, and charged that those making these accusations are out to destroy the independence of the State Attorney's Office.

In the past three weeks, Ben-Yair has decided to indict Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (Likud) for tax fraud allegedly committed during the 1988 elections, nixed the appointment of Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan to certain ministries because of a police investigation of him which is now drawing to a close, and decided to open a preliminary investigation of Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman for an event the State Attorney's Office has known about for the past four years.

Many Likud figures have charged that these decisions were politically motivated, especially as Ben-Yair closed cases against

two then-ministers from Labor - Binayamin Ben-Eliezer and Yisrael Kessar - earlier this year. These charges have also been raised by newspaper columnists.

"This is very worrying," Ben-Yair said at a rare press conference yesterday. "The result of these publications is likely to be the undermining of the public's faith in the motives of the prosecution... [These publications] have a purpose, and their purpose is to influence the prosecution's judgments, in order to undermine the independence of the prosecution," he added.

In deciding whether to bring charges or close a case, the prosecution weighs only two factors, Ben-Yair said: Whether there is enough evidence for an indictment, and whether there is a public interest in the case.

To prove this, he presented a list of the cases against public figures which he has considered, includ-

ing indictments that were filed against left-wing politicians - such as Labor MKs Yossi Vanunu and Avi Yehezkel - and cases that were closed against right-wing figures, including MK Avner Shaki (NRP) and Prime Minister Binayamin Netanyahu.

For public figures, he added, decisions are reviewed by several levels of the State Attorney's Office, culminating with the attorney-general himself.

The only proper place for criticism of the prosecution's decisions, Ben-Yair said, is the courts - not the political arena or the press.

Ben-Yair noted that the decision to indict Olmert was made only recently because the prosecution was waiting for a district court verdict on others accused of the same crimes, and this verdict was given only three months ago. Regarding Eitan, he said, the police finished its investigation and sent the file to his office only a month ago.

Journalist accuses Netanyahu, Ne'eman, Ben-Yair of lying

EVELYN GORDON

JUSTICE Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, Prime Minister Binayamin Netanyahu, and Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair are all lying to the High Court of Justice, *Globe's* journalist Yc. Yitzhak charged in an affidavit to the court yesterday.

Last week, Yitzhak had filed a petition to the High Court against Ne'eman's appointment, charging that he was unfit for the job because of several crimes which Yitzhak alleged that he committed - though Ne'eman has never even been criminally investigated, much less indicted or convicted.

The court dismissed most of Yitzhak's charges at a hearing last week, but deferred its decision on the petition to give the police time to look into one affair which surfaced only last Sunday - a charge by a witness in the trial of MK Aryeh Deri (Shas) that Ne'eman had tried to pressure him not to testify. Both Ne'eman and the witness now deny that such an event ever occurred.

Yesterday, Yitzhak submitted a supplementary affidavit charging that Ne'eman, Netanyahu, and

Ben-Yair did not give truthful information to the court at last week's hearing.

Netanyahu and Ben-Yair lied to the court, he wrote, when they said a legal opinion by Ben-Yair - which said Netanyahu should defer Ne'eman's appointment until the after initial court hearing last week - did not reach Netanyahu in time to prevent the appointment. Ben-Yair had sent his opinion to Netanyahu at the Knesset by fax at 3:15 p.m., shortly before the Knesset session opened, and in the confusion, both men said, it apparently never reached the prime minister.

However, Yitzhak charged, the two men had met earlier in the day, at around noon, to discuss the petition and its implications. At that meeting, Yitzhak claimed, Ben-Yair told Netanyahu in person that he should delay Ne'eman's appointment, but neither party revealed this to the court.

"A half truth is like a lie," he wrote. Therefore, he charged, both parties were lying when they

told the court that the appointment was made due to ignorance of Ben-Yair's opposition, rather than in direct defiance of it.

Regarding Ne'eman, Yitzhak said he lied in his response to one of the charges Yitzhak had leveled in his original petition - that Ne'eman committed fraud and extortion while serving as a court-appointed receiver for the Kochav Hashomron company.

In his response, Ne'eman noted that Yitzhak had previously petitioned the court to demand that a criminal investigation be opened against him on this affair. However, Ne'eman's affidavit continued, the court threw out the petition, which shows that there was no substance to Yitzhak's charges.

Yitzhak said that this statement was a lie. The petition was not thrown out, he said; he withdrew it of his own free will after the State Attorney's Office promised to look into the matter.

After looking into it, however, the State Attorney's Office concluded that there was no basis for opening a criminal investigation.

Agency resolution calls for 'preserving Jewish unity'

MARILYN HENRY

DECLARING victory, the Jewish Agency Assembly yesterday unanimously passed a compromise resolution calling for the preservation of the unity of the Jewish people. This was accomplished by deleting all references to "pluralism" and "status quo."

The original resolution, submitted by a coalition of American fund-raising organizations, including UJA, would have committed the agency to preserving the "principle of pluralism." The vote was delayed while the Reform movement and Mizrahi-Religious Zionists tried to work out compromise language.

The agency concluded its annual assembly without any specific statement or resolution on activities in the former Soviet Union, which are the bulk of its work. Of some 20 resolutions, only one dealt with the CIS, and it simply authorized the agency's board to take whatever steps are necessary to continue agency activities in Russia.

The agency, in effect, delayed a

rejection of its request for new accreditation in Russia last week by pulling back its request to deal with what Moscow called "technicalities."

Alla Levy, the head of operations in the former Soviet Union, said last week that she had been advised by Moscow that the agency would not get its accreditation. "We couldn't afford having a negative answer," Levy told a gathering of UJA fundraisers.

However, she indicated that Moscow authorities, speaking only days after the inconclusive Russian election, also wanted to prevent a "negative" situation.

The Justice Ministry "suggested" that the agency take its documents back, because there were some "technicalities" that had to be changed, Levy said. "We succeeded in [getting] the delay," she said. "It's not over, but I didn't come back optimistic."

It was not clear when the agency would resubmit its request for accreditation.

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Suissa: Jerusalem Arabs not utilizing their building rights

LIAT COLLINS

THE Arab population in Jerusalem has not utilized the rights to build thousands of housing units in the city and surrounding villages, mainly because of objections to constructing multi-story buildings. Interior Minister Eli Suissa told the Knesset yesterday.

Suissa was making his first speech, in

answer to five motions to the agenda on the Har Homa project in south Jerusalem.

"As long as this sector doesn't change its attitude to land and utilize the building rights given it, the problem will not be solved. Anyone who decides to live a rural lifestyle in

Jerusalem will not be able to enjoy the benefits of the city in everything related to planning and construction and vice versa," Suissa said.

He described the claims by opposition MKs that the project was at the expense

of the Arab population as "a challenge to Jerusalem's unity and status, since most of the land expropriated to build Har Homa was expropriated from Jews and not Arabs."

Walid Sadek (Meretz) said the Har Homa project was an attempt to create demographic and geographic facts on the ground

before the final talks on Jerusalem, and said Har Homa was intended to cut east Jerusalem off from Bethlehem, Beit Jalla, and Beit Sahur.

Azmi Basbara (Hadash) said the government "is acting as though Jerusalem is about to be divided tomorrow and is rushing to build in haste."



Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism), who will run the ministry which is formally held by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, accepts the congratulations of his predecessor, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, at yesterday's changeover ceremony. (Ariel Jerusalem)

Knesset declares war on road deaths

LIAT COLLINS and Tim

THE Transportation Ministry and the Public Works Department agreed yesterday to spend NIS 10 million to make immediate improvements on the Jordan Valley road and to install traffic lights at the junction outside Sderot, at which five people were killed in an accident last week.

Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy said he would also ask Prime Minister Binayamin Netanyahu to immediately implement a decision made by the government last year to add 425 officers to the Traffic Police.

Earlier in the day, the Knesset debated the issue of road accidents, with Levy calling on the public to "declare war - a war for life on the roads."

Levy asked the public to remember that cars are potential weapons, adding "a criminal driver should be seen as just that."

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) suggested establishing a special Knesset committee for road safety.

"In the past two days, 12 people have been killed in road accidents. Deaths on the road have become the curse of the country. The public rightly feels that the authorities don't have a solution to the problem," Pines said.

"This House has exhausted many words on the subject 'of road murder,'" said Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon. "I say 'murder' because there is no other definition for what's happening. What else can we say? What else can be written? What else can be broadcast? Yet the headlines continue to scream and young lives continue to be cut short. It's unthinkable, that

this phenomenon should be something taken for granted.

"Every one of us - MKs and ministers - can play our part, by legislation or enforcement or construction or budgeting. One can't accept headlines about a 17-year-old killed four days after receiving his license. This is not the society we want to live in. All the talk of peace, a healthy economy and quality of life aren't worth anything with headlines like this."

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) noted that in the previous Knesset he and Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) submitted a law on road safety supported by 91 MKs, which passed first reading. He said the law contains means of enforcement, education and supervision, and asked that the Knesset continue to promote it. The Knesset is scheduled to hold another discussion on the subject Monday.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 23-34
Tel Aviv 22-30
Beersheva 21-28
Haifa 22-33
Tiberias 24-37
Afula 21-37
Samarfa 22-34
Dead Sea 27-42
Eilat 27-44

Forecast: Warmer.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Forecast
Amsterdam	10	15	cloudy
Berlin	12	18	cloudy
Bombay	28	35	cloudy
Buenos Aires	12	18	cloudy
Chicago	10	15	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	15	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	35	cloudy
London	10	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	15	22	cloudy
Moscow	10	15	cloudy
New York	12	18	cloudy
Paris	10	15	cloudy
Rome	12	18	cloudy
Sydney	18	25	cloudy
Tokyo	18	25	cloudy
Vienna	10	15	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, jack of hearts, jack of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ne'eman wants Arad as director-general
Deputy State Attorney Nili Arad is Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman's choice to replace Haim Klugman as director-general of the ministry, Ne'eman announced yesterday. The appointment must be approved by the cabinet.

Arad, who was named deputy state attorney only recently, previously served for eight years as head of the ministry's High Court division. Klugman is retiring after 33 years of working for the ministry. *Evelyn Gordon*

Galilee gets two transmitters
The Second Channel Authority and Bezeq yesterday inaugurated two new transmission stations in the North for broadcasting Channel 2. Located at Migdal Tefen and Manara, the transmitters will provide clear broadcasts to the Upper, Western, and Central Galilee and the Golan.

The authority is now planning to built two new transmission stations in the Jerusalem area, three in the Haifa area, and an additional one at Mitze Turan in the Galilee. *Judy Siegel*

State appeals military case
The state yesterday lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court against a district court ruling saying that failing to return to Israel for military duty is not a crime.

The case involved a man who received a permit from the army to go abroad for two months before being drafted, but instead stayed abroad for two years. He was indicted for his failure to return and convicted by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, but the Tel Aviv District Court overturned the decision, saying there is no such crime on the books. In its appeal, the state argued that since draftees are required by law to get a permit from the army before leaving the country, someone who violates the terms of his permit also violates the law. *Evelyn Gordon*

No visitors for Amir
Convicted assassin Yigal Amir was banned from having visitors for two months, after guards found him trying to cover up the closed circuit television camera in his cell. The incident occurred some six weeks ago at Beersheba's Ohalei Kedat Prison, where Amir is being kept in solitary confinement. *Raine Marcus*

Yisrael Ba'aliya presents demands to chief rabbis

THE Yisrael Ba'aliya Knesset faction yesterday presented the chief rabbis with a list of demands intended to improve the level of religious services offered to new immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

In a meeting with the two chief rabbis in Jerusalem, the party's ministers and MKs asked that representatives of the rabbinic courts be stationed in the CIS states; that Russian-speaking aides be appointed in the offices of local rabbis and religious councils, and that a national network of courses in Jewish studies be established.

Chief rabbi Yisrael Lau and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron did not promise the Yisrael Ba'aliya representatives anything, but agreed that a committee should be set up to examine the requests in depth.

The two did, however, agree to reiterate the prevailing instructions regarding the burial of non-Jews and those whose status is unclear.

On Monday, the Chief Rabbinical Council will hold a session with the heads of the large burial societies, and will stress that such bodies should be buried in an honorable fashion in sections set aside for them, and not outside the cemetery gates.

Lau stressed, however, that this meeting will only reiterate the prevailing directives. The few problematic cases that have reached the media - such as that of the toddler killed in a Sderot road accident last week and soldier Lev Pishahov, who was killed by terrorists three years ago - are the exceptions that prove that in most cases, these burials are handled with sensitivity. (Tim)

ISRAEL - NEW ROAD ATLAS

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Agreement reached on highway work

THE Trans-Israel Highway Corporation and the Israel Union for Environmental Defense reached an agreement yesterday to stop some of the work being done at the Kassem junction. *Evelyn Gordon*

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